Pocahontas-7

West Virginia Writers' Project

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Research Worker Samuel G Smith

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Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

Limestone is found in many sections of Pocahontas County the elevation anging from 2200 feet to about 3,000 feet in which it is found,in Little Le els District limestone is found on Locust Creek,Stamping Creek,the entire section in and around Hillsboro from above Millpoint to near the top of Droop Mountain,In Edray District it is found on Swago Creek,Dry Creek in many sections Elk River but the greatest deposit is found near Edray,limestone is found in many sections of the Greenbank District but most of it is found near Dunmore and on Back Mountain above Cass.

X Limestone was used for agricultural purposes as far back as the 80s. but has been used very extensively for this purpose since about 1936 one of the largest limestone operations in Pocahontas County is found operating on Back Mountain above Cass,here Robert Hevener has a draw kiln that put out 850 tons of lime in 1940 this limestone is found on elevation around 3,000 feet and its purity is 99% lime,the equipment used by Hevener consists of the follow an air compressor,a large truck to deliver with,he employs 5 men in getting out the rock his lime is sold to farmers in Pocahontas,Randolph and Pendleton Counties.This operation was started in 1937.

In 1939 C.A Young of Buckeye erected two draw kilns at the Overholt cave on the head waters of Swago Creek and in 1940 he burned about 600 tons of lime which was bought by the farmers of Pocahontas County,he employs from4 to 5 men and has one delivery truck.

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About I937 Samuel C Bartholomew built a draw kiln at the foot of Droop tain on the farm of H.W Beard he operated here for two years lost his lease the quarry and in the meantime Lewis Gay had built a draw kiln in the Kee fl- ts on the late John Gay farm so Bartholomew went in with him Gay did the bur- ning and Bartholomew did the delivering they continued to operate this way un- til I94I when Bartholomew took over the entire operation and today he is empl- oying from 5 to 7 men keeps a truck busy day and night hauling coal from Gree- nbrier and Nicholas Counties and delivering lime to Pocahontas,Greenbrier and Nicholas County farmers,H.W Beard is now operating a draw kiln at the foot of Droop Mountain his output is sold locally to the farmers of Little Levels bes- ides several hundred ton that has been applied to the late M.L Beard estate.

About I939 William Browning built a draw kiln on the Browning farm on Locust Creek his output is sold in Pocahontas and Raleigh County as he gets mo- st of his coal from the Raleigh coal fields.He emp;oys from 2 to 3 men and has a delivery truck to deliver the lime to the farmers,this kiln was built by Hess Landis of Hillsboro.The Young kiln built by George Hevener of Edray.

About I939 F.W Ruckman began to grind limestone into lime his crusher operates at Stephen Hole Run his limestone is sold to the farmers of Pocahontas head County,he employs from 2 to 3 men has a tractor and the lime pulverizer also a delivery truck besides these operations you find draw kilns on many farms as well

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re they burn on the ground with logs and coal using dirt to hold the heat

,at this time the manufacture of lime is one of the leading industries of

ocahontas County,this limestone will make history for its self for in years

to come you will still be able to see the affects of where it was applied years

before.The ground limestone is used in concrete work and today we have many

of our better buildings and bridges that have our native limestone in them as

well as the limestone that has been used in the construction of our hard sur-

faced roads ,the hard top on the Seneca Trail or route 219 from Buckeye to Mi-

llpoint came from the head of Stevens Hole Run as the Hill Construction Co.of

Va.opened up this quarry.At Idray there has been a limestone quarry for many

years and the town of Marlinton has opened up a quarry on the Elk Mt.road this

limestone is used in the street work in the town.

Limestone has been used quite extensively in the many buildings made

with brick made from crushed limestone and one of the largest of this make is

the Grade School building at Hillsboro,the stone coming from a local quarry ne-

ar Hillsboro and erected by the late W.W Kinnison of near Hillsboro. Limestone

crushed at local quarrys has been used very extensively in making forms for bu-

ildings ,basements,foundations and in the many sidewalks that are found in the

towns of Pocahontas County as the side walks at Hillsboro built in recent years

have been made with crushed limestone coming from a quarry on Mill Run,this qu-

rry is on the old Spice Run Railroad grade and this ledge of rock was known as

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ommerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County. the pigeon roost. Pocahontas County is rich in limestone and the richest sections are Little Levels District in and around Hillsboro, in Fdray District at and near Fdray, on and near Cave Creek at Buckeye and on Back Mt. above Cass in the Greenbank District some testing as high as 99% pure lime.

The cave at Stevens Hole Run was the home of Steven Sewell for several years and is now a point of intrest for tourists for here you find a high limestone cliff in which is the above cave, many springs coming out of the rocks and all around are Spruce, Hemlock and Cedar trees which makes this a point of intrest to tourists and this could be developed to one of the leading places of intrest in Pocahontas County.

Limestone and its products are now and will be the leading industry of Pocahontas County for years to come as it is just in its infancy.

Pocahontas County has many outcroppings of Marble all on the North Western side of the Greenbrier River, this marble crops out at about 2600 feet starting at Droop Mountain and extending to Back Mt. in the upper end of the county. In the vicinity of Hillsboro and the head of Stamping Creek we have marble of a thickness of from 25 to 40 feet these are in color from red to maroon to a pinkish tinge and from that to the various shades of gray, this gray stone could be used as a building stone, the brighter colors will produce stones for ornimental purposes. Samples have been taken out by the C & O R.R

listed in the hopes some monument company would become interested and so far

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e only intrest shown was by a monument concern down in Georgia, when our tate capitol was being built it was hoped Pocahontas County could supply the marble to build it with serious consideration and sampling Wise but due to lack of tests as to stability and last it was decided to drop the marble question in Pocahontas County for that purpose, but the future for the develppmnen of marble in Pocahontas County looks bright.

Building stone of sandstone formation suitable for building and masonary construction is found all along the Western side of the Greenbrier River the most that has been quarried has been used in bridge abutments building foundations and steps where durability and abrasive resistance are important. All the C & O Railroad bridge abutments were taken from sandstone quarrys along the Greenbrier River among these is the Knapps Creek Bridge, the Watoga Bridge and others the best of sandrock formation for dimension stone is the Broad Ford Sandstone. Sandstone building rock are found in the walls of the Bank of Marlinton building were quarried near Marlinton.

Sandstone is found in great quantity on the Northern end of Droop Mt. this section is known locally as "Rattlesnake Den" here you find massive rock covering several acres many of these rock have been used in the buildings of Watoga State Park, in towers and other buildings at the Droop Mountain Park also in administrative buildings at the Federal Prison Camp on Cranberry (To be continued)

Inf. Robert Hevener-Cass. W.Va. ----Calvin Price Marlinton. W.Va.

ed from county reports of Poca. Co. In W.Va. Geological Survey. by Paul H Price-

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